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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,908	03/22/2004	David Quijano	200313207.1	9683

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,908

Applicant(s)

QUIJANO, DAVID

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03/22/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-13, 21-22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perez et al. [US 6,934,162] in view of Kirner [US 7,016,197].

Regarding claims 1, 4 and 10-11, Perez et al. disclose a circuit board module (figure 1), comprising:

- a motherboard (26) including a processor (32) and a memory (figure 1), the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figure 1); and
- an external connector panel (42) that provides user access to connectors that is cooperated to the motherboard when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel includes connection elements (60) that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis (figure 4).

Perez et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel being integral to the motherboard.

Kirner discloses a printed circuit board (3, figure 1) having a connector panel (57) that is integral connected to the circuit board to form a single (figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the connector panel directly to the motherboard of Perez et al., as suggested by Kirner, for the purpose of aligning the motherboard within the computer chassis.

Regarding claim 3, Perez et al., as modified, disclose the motherboard comprising openings (34) that are adapted to receive fasteners (48) that are used to secure the mother to a computer chassis.

Regarding claim 5, Perez et al., as modified, disclose wherein the connector panel comprising openings (figures 1 and 4) with which the connectors are aligned or extend through.

Regarding claims 7 and 12, Perez et al., as modified, disclose wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figures 1 and 4).

Regarding claims 9 and 13, Perez et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for wherein the connection elements include tabs (60) that are configured for receipt by slots (62) of a computer chassis (figures 1, 3 and 4).

Regarding claims 21-22 and 24-25, the method step of manufacturing a computer would have been inherit in the product structure.

3. Claims 14-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perez et al. [US 6,934,162] in view of Kirner [US 7,016,197] and Liu et al. [US 6,000,767].

Art Unit: 2841

Regarding claims 14-15, Perez et al. disclose a computer chassis having a circuit board module (figure 1), comprising:

- a motherboard (26) including a processor (32) and a memory (figure 1), the motherboard having input/output connectors mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figure 1); and
- an external connector panel (42) that provides user access to connectors that is cooperated to the motherboard when the module is installed in a host computer, wherein the connector panel includes connection elements (60) that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis (figure 4).

Perez et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel being integral to the motherboard and the computer chassis being enclosed in an outer housing.

Kirner discloses a printed circuit board (3, figure 1) having a connector panel (57) that is integral connected to the circuit board to form a single (figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the connector panel directly to the motherboard of Perez et al., as suggested by Kirner, for the purpose of aligning the motherboard within the computer chassis.

Liu et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 2) being enclosed by an outer housing (16, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enclose the computer chassis of Perez et al., as modified, as suggested by Liu et al., for the purpose of providing electrostatic discharge, grounding capabilities and making a rigidity to the computer casing.

Regarding claim 16, Perez et al., as modified, disclose the motherboard comprising openings (34) that are adapted to receive fasteners (48) that are used to secure the mother to a computer chassis.

Regarding claims 17-18, Perez et al., as modified, disclose wherein at least one connector is also attached to the connector panel so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figures 1 and 4).

Regarding claim 20, Perez et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for wherein the connection elements include tabs (60) that are configured for receipt by slots (62) of a computer chassis (figures 1, 3 and 4).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-18, 20-22 and 24-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2841

- Gonsalves et al. [US 5,839,584] disclose motherboard stiffener and guide for processor module and PCI cards; and
- Scholder et al. [US 5,822,182] disclose flexible I/O port configuration and connector labeling scheme for computer chassis.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

Art Unit: 2841

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/17/06
Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841


10/19/06
Tuan Dinh.